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*Infectious diseases.*

For the week ended October 26, 1905, the following reports were officially registered:

*Smallpox*.—There were reported 4 cases at Sona (Verona), 3 at Catania, 2 at Troina (Catania), and 3 cases at Terranova (Caltanissetta).

*Measles*.—Disease reported in the province of Novara.

*Scarlatina*.—The malady is prevailing in an epidemic form in the communes of Centuripe and Catenanova (Catania) and at Piazza Armerina (Caltanissetta).

*Enteric fever*.—Still widely spread in all the provinces. There were reported 27 cases at Rome, 26 at Milan, and 20 at Siena.

*Diphtheria*.—Reported in the provinces of Catania, Arezzo, and Caltanissetta.

*Malarial diseases*.—A great number of cases are still reported in southern Italy, in Sardinia, and Sicily, in the provinces of Milan, Novaro, and Rome.

**JAPAN.**

*Reports from Yokohama—Inspection of vessels—Plague in Kobé suppressed—Rat destruction.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, October 7, 14, and 21, as follows:

During the week ended September 30, 1905, bills of health were issued to 8 vessels having an aggregate personnel of 614 crew and 463 passengers.

In the absence of recent official reports it is believed that sanitary conditions in Yokohama and the other leading ports of Japan continue to be satisfactory. During the week ended September 30 no new cases of plague were reported in Kobé and only 2 old cases remained under treatment in that city. Thus it would appear that the Japanese authorities have again succeeded in suppressing a threatening outbreak of this malady in its incipiency.

Since the initial epidemic of plague in Japan, in 1899-1900, outbreaks of the disease have occurred from time to time in various portions of the Empire, all of which—that in Formosa excepted—have been stamped out with comparatively slight mortality. Prominent among the prophylactic measures employed have been those directed toward the destruction of rats. During these outbreaks, not only in the infected localities but in districts liable to infection, public interest in the matter has been stimulated by offering cash bounties and prizes for the capture of these animals.

Recently some statistics have appeared in print relating to the purchase of rats by the Government in the city of Tokyo, a summary of which may possess some interest. The purchase of rats was first begun in Tokyo in January, 1900, since which date the practice has been continued with some intermissions to the present time. The periods during which these purchases have been made in Tokyo, the particular occasion demanding such prophylactic measures, and the number of rats bought are given as follows:

First period (January 15 to February 15, 1900): Plague present in Kobé, Osaka, Yokohama, and other localities in Japan. Number of rats purchased, 109,544.